

Among other species, I have banded 2,300 Ring-billed Gulls, and have had over 100 recoveries, a recovery rate of about 4.4 per cent. Of over 1,000 Herring Gulls banded, 55 have been recovered - a rate of 5.5 per cent. The gull recoveries represent, of course, birds found dead in most cases, whereas many of the Evening Grosbeaks were trapped and released. This may account to some extent for the difference in percentage of recovery.

One Evening Grosbeak, which I banded on February 18, 1959, was trapped and released by Mrs. James R. Downs of South Londonderry, Vermont on February 8, 1961. This bird, after it was banded, repeated 25 times during the month, and 13 times in one day. After it had repeated four or five times, it apparently learned to trip the lever of the trap purposely, in order to feed in privacy in the trap. One time he was caught with another male, and almost pecked it to death - that bird had to be nursed back to health before it was released!

Another Evening Grosbeak, banded on March 20, 1956, returned to my station at Burlington on January 8, 1957, and then was trapped and released by James Baird at New Brunswick, Canada, on June 10, 1957.

An Evening Grosbeak which I banded on January 26, 1960, was trapped four days later, January 30, at Bethel Vermont by Miss Virginia Perkins - a distance of about 55 air miles, to the southeast. South Londonderry, Vermont, where Mrs. Downs has recovered a number of my Grosbeaks, is about 93 miles from Burlington.

70 Wright Ave., Burlington, Vermont

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(The author has written an article on his gull banding experiences, which will appear in a subsequent issue. -Ed.)

NOTES FROM  
PEQUANNOCK

Mrs. Marie Dumont, of Pequannock, N.J. writes, "We have been noticing that some of our common birds are getting set for housekeeping. For the past three weeks I have found that

the Starlings - at least a good many of them - have changed to breeding plumage and are getting ready for nest building. I had a call from a friend nearby that they have seen Starlings taking nesting material through a hole caused by a rotting board in a roof overhang. The House Sparrows are inspecting the bird houses and the Blue Jays are going through court-antics.

"Evening Grosbeaks have been rather scarce in this area this winter, but we have had such birds wintering as Brown Thrashers, Robins, Catbirds, Meadowlarks, Towhees and Song Sparrows. Whitethroats haven't been too plentiful around my station, but Tree Sparrows were abundant. I banded 426 in 1960; and as far as Blue Jays are concerned, I had plenty - banded 151 last year."

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